

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 116–57
OFFERED BY MR. KEATING OF MASSACHUSETTS

Add at the end of subtitle G of title XII the following:

1 **SEC. 12 ____ . UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the
3 “U.S. Agency for Global Media Reform Act”.

4 (b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that the Office of Cuba Broadcasting should—

6 (1) remain an independent entity of the United
7 States Agency for Global Media; and

8 (2) continue taking steps to ensure that the Of-
9 fice is fulfilling its core mission of promoting free-
10 dom and democracy by providing the people of Cuba
11 with objective news and information programming.

12 (c) **AUTHORITIES OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFI-**
13 **CER; LIMITATION ON CORPORATE LEADERSHIP OF**
14 **GRANTEES.**—Section 305 of the United States Inter-
15 national Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6204) is
16 amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (20), by inserting “in ac-
2 cordance with subsection (c)” before the period
3 at the end;

4 (B) in paragraph (21)—

5 (i) by striking “including with Federal
6 officials,”; and

7 (ii) by inserting “in accordance with
8 subsection (c)” before the period at the
9 end;

10 (C) by adding at the end the following new
11 paragraph:

12 “(23) To—

13 “(A) require semi-annual content reviews
14 of each language service of each surrogate net-
15 work, consisting of a review of at least 10 per-
16 cent of available weekly content, by fluent lan-
17 guage speakers and experts without direct affili-
18 ation to the language service being reviewed,
19 who are seeking any evidence of inappropriate
20 or unprofessional content, which shall be sub-
21 mitted to the Office of Policy and Research and
22 the Chief Executive Officer; and

23 “(B) submit to the appropriate congres-
24 sional committees a list of anomalous reports,
25 including status updates on anomalous services

1 during the three-year period commencing on the
2 date of receipt of the first report of biased, un-
3 professional, or otherwise problematic content.”;
4 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “(c) LIMITATION ON CORPORATE LEADERSHIP OF
7 GRANTEES.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Offi-
9 cer may not award any grant under subsection (a)
10 to RFE/RL, Inc., Radio Free Asia, the Middle East
11 Broadcasting Networks, the Open Technology Fund,
12 or any other grantee (collectively referred to as
13 ‘Agency Grantee Networks’) unless the incorporation
14 documents of any such grantee require that the cor-
15 porate leadership and Board of Directors of such
16 grantee be selected in accordance with this Act.

17 “(2) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—

18 “(A) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—The
19 Chief Executive Officer may not serve on any of
20 the corporate boards of any grantee under sub-
21 section (a).

22 “(B) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A full-time
23 employee of a Federal agency may not serve on
24 a corporate board of any grantee under sub-
25 section (a).

1 “(3) QUALIFICATIONS OF GRANTEE BOARD
2 MEMBERS.—Individuals appointed under subsection
3 (a) to the Board of Directors of any of the Agency
4 Grantee Networks shall have requisite expertise in
5 journalism, technology, broadcasting, or diplomacy,
6 or appropriate language or cultural understanding
7 relevant to the grantee’s mission.”.

8 (d) INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY
9 BOARD.—Section 306 of the United States International
10 Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6205) is amended—
11 (1) by striking subsections (a) through (c) and
12 inserting the following:

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The International Broadcasting
14 Advisory Board (referred to in this section as the ‘Advi-
15 sory Board’) shall advise the Chief Executive Officer of
16 the United States Agency for Global Media, as appro-
17 priate.

18 “(b) COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY BOARD.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Board shall
20 consist of seven members, of whom—

21 “(A) six shall be appointed by the Presi-
22 dent, by and with the advice and consent of the
23 Senate, in accordance with subsection (c); and

24 “(B) one shall be the Secretary of State.

1 “(2) CHAIR.—The President shall designate,
2 with the advice and consent of the Senate, one of the
3 members appointed under paragraph (1)(A) as
4 Chair of the Advisory Board.

5 “(3) PARTY LIMITATION.—Not more than three
6 members of the Advisory Board appointed under
7 paragraph (1)(A) may be affiliated with the same
8 political party.

9 “(4) TERMS OF OFFICE.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
11 subparagraph (B), members of the Advisory
12 Board shall serve for a single term of four
13 years, except that, of the first group of mem-
14 bers appointed under paragraph (1)(A)—

15 “(i) two members who are not affili-
16 ated with the same political party, shall be
17 appointed for terms ending on the date
18 that is two years after the date of the en-
19 actment of the U.S. Agency for Global
20 Media Reform Act;

21 “(ii) two members who are not affili-
22 ated with the same political party, shall be
23 appointed for terms ending on the date
24 that is four years after the date of the en-

1 actment of the U.S. Agency for Global
2 Media Reform Act; and

3 “(iii) two members who are not affili-
4 ated with the same political party, shall be
5 appointed for terms ending on the date
6 that is six years after the date of the en-
7 actment of the U.S. Agency for Global
8 Media Reform Act.

9 “(B) SECRETARY OF STATE.—The Sec-
10 retary of State shall serve as a member of the
11 Advisory Board for the duration of his or her
12 tenure as Secretary of State.

13 “(5) VACANCIES.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall
15 appoint, with the advice and consent of the
16 Senate, additional members to fill vacancies on
17 the Advisory Board occurring before the expira-
18 tion of a term.

19 “(B) TERM.—Any members appointed pur-
20 suant to subparagraph (A) shall serve for the
21 remainder of such term.

22 “(C) SERVICE BEYOND TERM.—Any mem-
23 ber whose term has expired shall continue to
24 serve as a member of the Advisory Board until

1 a qualified successor has been appointed and
2 confirmed by the Senate.

3 “(D) SECRETARY OF STATE.—When there
4 is a vacancy in the office of Secretary of State,
5 the Acting Secretary of State shall serve as a
6 member of the Advisory Board until a new Sec-
7 retary of State is appointed.”;

8 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
9 section (c);

10 (3) by amending subsection (c), as redesign-
11 ated—

12 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
13 “ADVISORY” before “BOARD”; and

14 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “who
15 are” before “distinguished”; and

16 (4) by striking subsections (e) and (f) and in-
17 serting the following new subsections:

18 “(d) FUNCTIONS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD.—The
19 members of the Advisory Board shall—

20 “(1) provide the Chief Executive Officer of the
21 United States Agency for Global Media with advice
22 and recommendations for improving the effectiveness
23 and efficiency of the Agency and its programming;

24 “(2) meet with the Chief Executive Officer at
25 least twice annually and at additional meetings at

1 the request of the Chief Executive Officer or the
2 Chair of the Advisory Board;

3 “(3) report periodically, or upon request, to the
4 congressional committees specified in subsection
5 (c)(2) regarding its advice and recommendations for
6 improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the
7 United States Agency for Global Media and its pro-
8 gramming;

9 “(4) obtain information from the Chief Execu-
10 tive Officer, as needed, for the purposes of fulfilling
11 the functions described in this subsection;

12 “(5) consult with the Chief Executive Officer
13 regarding budget submissions and strategic plans
14 before they are submitted to the Office of Manage-
15 ment and Budget or to Congress;

16 “(6) advise the Chief Executive Officer to en-
17 sure that—

18 “(A) the Chief Executive Officer fully re-
19 spects the professional integrity and editorial
20 independence of United States Agency for Glob-
21 al Media broadcasters, networks, and grantees;
22 and

23 “(B) agency networks, broadcasters, and
24 grantees adhere to the highest professional
25 standards and ethics of journalism, including

1 taking necessary actions to uphold professional
2 standards to produce consistently reliable and
3 authoritative, accurate, objective, and com-
4 prehensive news and information; and

5 “(7) provide other strategic input to the Chief
6 Executive Officer.

7 “(e) APPOINTMENT OF HEADS OF NETWORKS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The heads of Voice of
9 America, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, RFE/RL,
10 Inc., Radio Free Asia, the Middle East Broadcasting
11 Networks, the Open Technology Fund, or of any
12 other grantee may only be appointed or removed if
13 such action has been approved by a majority vote of
14 the Advisory Board.

15 “(2) REMOVAL.—After consulting with the
16 Chief Executive Officer, five or more members of the
17 Advisory Board may unilaterally remove any such
18 head of network or grantee network described in
19 paragraph (1).

20 “(3) QUORUM.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A quorum shall con-
22 sist of four members of the Advisory Board (ex-
23 cluding the Secretary of State).

24 “(B) DECISIONS.—Except as provided in
25 paragraph (2), decisions of the Advisory Board

1 shall be made by majority vote, a quorum being
2 present.

3 “(C) CLOSED SESSIONS.—The Advisory
4 Board may meet in closed sessions in accord-
5 ance with section 552b of title 5, United States
6 Code.

7 “(f) COMPENSATION.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Members of the Advisory
9 Board, while attending meetings of the Advisory
10 Board or while engaged in duties relating to such
11 meetings or in other activities of the Advisory Board
12 under this section (including travel time) shall be en-
13 titled to receive compensation equal to the daily
14 equivalent of the compensation prescribed for level
15 IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of
16 title 5, United States Code.

17 “(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While away from
18 their homes or regular places of business, members
19 of the Board may be allowed travel expenses, includ-
20 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized
21 under section 5703 of such title for persons in the
22 Government service employed intermittently.

23 “(3) SECRETARY OF STATE.—The Secretary of
24 State is not entitled to any compensation under this

1 title, but may be allowed travel expenses in accord-
2 ance with paragraph (2).

3 “(g) SUPPORT STAFF.—The Chief Executive Officer
4 shall, from within existing United States Agency for Glob-
5 al Media personnel, provide the Advisory Board with an
6 Executive Secretary and such administrative staff and
7 support as may be necessary to enable the Advisory Board
8 to carry out subsections (d) and (e).”.

9 (e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The United States
10 International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6201
11 et seq.) is amended—

12 (1) in section 304—

13 (A) in the section heading, by striking
14 “**BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS**”
15 and inserting “**UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR**
16 **GLOBAL MEDIA**”;

17 (B) in subsection (a), by striking “Broad-
18 casting Board of Governors” and inserting
19 “United States Agency for Global Media”;

20 (C) in subsection (b)(1), by striking
21 “Broadcasting Board of Governors” and insert-
22 ing “United States Agency for Global Media”;
23 and

1 (D) in subsection (c), by striking “Board”
2 each place such term appears and inserting
3 “Agency”;

4 (2) in section 305—

5 (A) in subsection (a)—

6 (i) in paragraph (6), by striking
7 “Board” and inserting “Agency”;

8 (ii) in paragraph (13), by striking
9 “Board” and inserting “Agency”;

10 (iii) in paragraph (20), by striking
11 “Board” and inserting “Agency”; and

12 (iv) in paragraph (22), by striking
13 “Board” and inserting “Agency”;

14 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “Board”
15 each place such term appears and inserting
16 “Agency”;

17 (3) in section 308—

18 (A) in subsection (a), in the matter pre-
19 ceding paragraph (1), by striking “Board” and
20 inserting “Agency”;

21 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “Board”
22 each place such term appears and inserting
23 “Agency”;

24 (C) in subsection (d), by striking “Board”
25 and inserting “Agency”;

1 (D) in subsection (g), by striking “Board”
2 each place such term appears and inserting
3 “Agency”;

4 (E) in subsection (h)(5), by striking
5 “Board” and inserting “Agency”; and

6 (F) in subsection (i), in the first sentence,
7 by striking “Board” and inserting “Agency”;
8 (4) in section 309—

9 (A) in subsection (c)(1), by striking
10 “Board” each place such term appears and in-
11 serting “Agency”;

12 (B) in subsection (e), in the matter pre-
13 ceding paragraph (1), by striking “Board” and
14 inserting “Agency”;

15 (C) in subsection (f), by striking “Board”
16 each place such term appears and inserting
17 “Agency”; and

18 (D) in subsection (g), by striking “Board”
19 and inserting “Agency”;

20 (5) in section 310(d), by striking “Board” and
21 inserting “Agency”;

22 (6) in section 310A(a), by striking “Broad-
23 casting Board of Governors” and inserting “United
24 States Agency for Global Media”;

1 (7) in section 310B, by striking “Board” and
2 inserting “Agency”;

3 (8) by striking section 312;

4 (9) in section 313(a), in the matter preceding
5 paragraph (1), by striking “Board” and inserting
6 “Agency”;

7 (10) in section 314—

8 (A) by striking “(4) the terms ‘Board and
9 Chief Executive Officer of the Board’ means
10 the Broadcasting Board of Governors” and in-
11 serting the following:

12 “(2) the terms ‘Agency’ and ‘Chief Executive
13 Officer of the Agency’ mean the United States Agen-
14 cy for Global Media and the Chief Executive Officer
15 of the United States Agency for Global Media, re-
16 spectively,”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (3)—

18 (i) by striking “includes—” and in-
19 serting “means the corporation having the
20 corporate title described in section 308”;
21 and

22 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (A) and
23 (B); and

24 (11) in section 316—

1 (A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking
2 “Broadcasting Board of Governors” and insert-
3 ing “United States Agency for Global Media”;
4 and

5 (B) in subsection (c), by striking “Broad-
6 casting Board of Governors” and inserting
7 “United States Agency for Global Media”.

8 (f) RULEMAKING.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
9 sion of law, the United States Agency for Global Media
10 may not revise part 531 of title 22, Code of Federal Regu-
11 lations, which took effect on June 11, 2020, without ex-
12 plicit authorization by an Act of Congress.

13 (g) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—Section 310 of the
14 United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22
15 U.S.C. 6209) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing new subsections:

17 “(f) MAINTENANCE OF PROPRIETARY INFORMA-
18 TION.—No consolidation of grantees authorized under
19 subsection (a) involving any grantee shall result in any
20 legal transfer of ownership of any proprietary information
21 or intellectual property to the United State Agency for
22 Global Media or any other Federal entity.

23 “(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—No consolidation of
24 grantees authorized under subsection (a) shall result in

- 1 the consolidation of the Open Technology Fund or any
- 2 successor entity with any other grantee.”.

